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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Gerard Mathis et al.

Examiner: Maupin, Christine L.

Serial No.: 09/936,563

Group Art Unit: 1637

Filed: September 14, 2001

Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING FLUORESCENCE QUENCHING IN BIOASSAYS

**REPLY**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the office action dated March 27, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-19 as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for reducing a fluorescence quenching caused by a measuring medium, in a fluorescence assay for an analyte using at least one fluorescent label, comprising introducing a fluorescent conjugate comprising an oligonucleotide bonded to a rare-earth metal cryptate into the measuring medium.

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide consists of a chain of ribonucleotide or deoxyribonucleotide units bonded to one another via phosphodiester bonds.

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide consists of